

U.S. Small Business Administration



NEWS RELEASE

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‘Y2K’ MILLENNIUM BUG: DEADLINE IS JUST 500 DAYS AWAY

New SBA “Fax-Back” Service Can Help With Y2K Woes

WASHINGTON – The Y2K deadline is 500 days and counting. That means there’s just 500 days before the clock ticks to Jan. 1, 2000 and small business owners, and millions of other Americans, learn if they’ve taken adequate steps to deal with the Year 2000 computer bug.

To lessen the impact of the Y2K problem, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced today a new “Fax-Back” service that gives small business owners and the public a new and easy way to gain Y2K information.

“The clock is ticking. Small business owners can’t afford to delay their Y2K analyses,” said **SBA Administrator Aida Alvarez**. “Our new Fax-Back service is one more way SBA can help you meet this crucial business challenge.”

It's easy to use SBA's Y2K Fax-Back:

- 1. Call this toll-free number: 1-877-RU-Y2K-OK (1-877-789-2565).**
- 2. Make your selection from a menu.**
- 3. Within minutes, you'll receive a fax targeted to your specific Y2K needs.**

SBA's Y2K Fax-Back can be used on touch-tone or rotary dial telephones and is available 24-hours-a-day. It supplements SBA's other Y2K information resources. These include a Y2K Internet home page at [**www.sba.gov/y2k/**](http://www.sba.gov/y2k/) and SBA's toll-free Answer Desk at **1-800-U-ASK-SBA** (1-800-827-5722). Answer Desk staff will route callers to the best sources of Y2K information.

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In a nationwide outreach campaign to small business owners, SBA is stressing the importance of assessing every company's vulnerability to Y2K-related problems. Addressing Y2K problems early, testing to verify fixes, and building contingency plans to deal with unexpected glitches, are critical steps to avoiding larger problems when the deadline arrives.

"Every small business owner should view Y2K as a business and management issue, just like a host of other issues you face every day," said **SBA Deputy Administrator Fred Hochberg**. "SBA's Y2K Fax-Back is one more way SBA can help you land feet first in the 21st century on Jan. 1, 2000."

In dealing with Y2K, SBA urges small business owners to take three immediate steps:

- **Determine your business' Y2K risk with affected hardware, software or embedded data chips. *A self assessment test is available on the SBA's Internet Y2K web page. (www.sba.gov/y2k/)***

- **If you are vulnerable, take action now. Don't wait. Fix your problem and test the results. Develop contingency plans to deal with the effects of Y2K problems outside your control.**
- **Stay informed. Accurate information may change as solutions evolve.**

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ARE YOU Y2K OK?

The Year 2000 computer problem is a potential risk for every U.S. small business. The SBA urges

small business owners to:

- Assess business environments for Y2K risk.
- Take action now to address Y2K exposure.
- Stay informed in the months ahead.

The SBA's Internet Website (**www.sba.gov/y2k**) has helpful information plus links to other useful Y2K sources.

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